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MAR 7 2003

**GROUP 1600**

**F A C S I M I L E   C O V E R   S H E E T**

**TO:** Art Unit 1645

**Examiner:** Richard D. Hutson

**CLIENT NAME/NUMBER:** 22201\_UT

**OFFICIAL**

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**FROM:** Enrique G. Estevez **DATE:** March 6, 2003

**NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET):** 4 (Four)

**COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:**

Attached is the following:

1. Response to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment

Patent application of: Michael Blaber, et al.

Serial No. 10/037,633

Filing Date: January 3, 2002

Title: Synthetic Nucleic Acid Sequences For 2,5-Diketo-D-Gluconic Acid Reductases  
And Associated Methods

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# 78/HW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: )  
MICHAEL BLABER ET AL. )  
Serial No. 10/037,633 )  
Filing Date: January 3, 2002 )  
For: SYNTHETIC NUCLEIC ACID )  
SEQUENCES FOR 2,5-DIKETO-D- )  
GLUCONIC ACID REDUCTASES )  
AND ASSOCIATED METHODS )

Examiner: Richard D. Hutson  
Art Unit: 1645

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT  
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 24, 2002, please enter the election and amend the above application as follows.

**Election of Claims**

Applicant, with traverse, elects the claims in Group I for further prosecution at this time, that is, Claims 1-18 and 40-43. Applicant, however, respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction as to Groups I and II for the reasons set forth below.

**In the Claims**

Please cancel without prejudice non-elected Claims 38, 39, 44-48, and 53-58.